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IN THE CLAIMS:**GROUP 1600**

Claim 27 (twice amended) A pharmaceutical, hygienic and/or cosmetic composition for inhibiting degranulation of mastocytos induced by substance P comprising an effective amount of a mixture of 3 to 99% by weight of sea water and 0.0001% to 10% by weight of a basic amino acid or its salts or esters or plant or animal extract or phytoplankton and an inert non-toxic carrier.

REMARKS**OFFICIAL**

The present amendment is being submitted in order to correct the specification to increase the amount of sea water to range from 3 to 99% of the total weight of the composition which is in accordance with Table 1 in the example which demonstrates that a concentration as low as 3% is already quite active. Therefore, this is not new matter but merely a correction of a typographical error. Also claim 27 is being amended to make the same correction.

It is believed that the claims are clearly patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner for the reasons set forth in the amendment of November 15, 2001 and therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Page 7 of specification
showing change

7
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can be modified in the same way.

In the compositions in accordance with the invention, containing the sea water-basic amino acid combination, the quantity of sea water represents from 30 to 99% of the total weight of the composition. More particularly, the quantity of sea water represents from 60 to 95% of the total weight of the composition. The quantity of basic amino acid in the compositions containing the sea water-basic amino acid combination, represents 0.0001% to 10% of the total weight of the composition. More particularly, the quantity of basic amino acid represents from 0.0005 to 2% of the total weight of the composition.

However, when sea water alone is used, or inversely when basic amino acid alone is used, with a view to the production of a pharmaceutical, dietary and/or cosmetic composition intended mainly to inhibit the degranulation of mastocytes, the percentages will be different.

The methods given below refer more particularly to the composition as previously defined, containing sea water and a basic amino acid like arginine.

However, these methods are equally applicable when sea water alone is used, or inversely when basic amino acid alone is used, with a view to the production of a pharmaceutical, hygienic and/or cosmetic composition mainly intended to inhibit the degranulation of mastocytes.

Furthermore, the composition according to the invention could be combined with additional active ingredients intended notably for the prevention and/or treatment of inflammatory and/or allergic ailments. Therefore, the composition is again characterised in that it contains at least one agent selected from antibacterial, anti-parasitic, anti-fungal, anti-pruritogenic, anti-free radical, anaesthetic, antiviral, anti-dandruff, anti-acne, anti-seborrheic, agents, vitamins and/or healing agents, and/or agents preventing or treating ageing (of the skin, the gums,...), and softener agents.

The composition in accordance with the invention can moreover contain a pH-regulating agent.

The pH of the composition in accordance with the invention is regulated within a zone